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**BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

## **Medical Officer of Health**

*For the Year ended 31st December, 1945.*

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**Public Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
Tamworth.**

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Tamworth Herald Co., Ltd., Printers.





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## BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH

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### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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COUNCILLOR W. H. BROWN, J.P., Chairman.

COUNCILLOR A. A. FALCONER, Vice-chairman  
(Died 11th April, 1945).

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. M. F. JONES, J.P., Vice-chairman  
(Elected 10th May, 1945).

Alderman G. H. JONES,	Councillor T. H. CLIFFORD
J.P., O.B.E.	„ S. O. DEELEY
„ H. J. WOOD	„ G. H. SMITH
Councillor D. ADAMS	„ M. R. TURNER, J.P.
„ A. H. ALLEN	(Mayor)
„ F. A. ALLSOPP	„ W. A. PEEL (Elected 14th May, 1945)

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Medical Officer of Health :

A. MATHIESON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

GEO. W. SHELLEY, M.S.I.A.,  
Cert. Insp. of Meat and Foods  
(Died 27th June, 1945).

H. BIRCHWOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,  
Cert. Insp. of Meat and Foods  
(commenced 12th November, 1945).

School Nurse and Health Visitor :

(appointed by the Staffordshire County Council)

Miss E. CURRIE, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF

# THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Tamworth for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

### STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	2,678
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	...	11,970
(Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	11,711
(Census, 1921)	...	...	...	...	8,032
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	3,171
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	2,785
Persons per Acre	...	...	...	...	4.4
Rateable Value—December, 1945	...	...	...	...	£72,437
Product of 1d. Rate—December, 1945	...	...	...	...	£282

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—		Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	194	100	94
Illegitimate	...	21	11	10
		<u>215</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>104</u>

Birth Rate 17.9

Still Births—		Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	9	5	4
Illegitimate	...	2	2	—
		<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ... .9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 48.6

Deaths from all Causes		Total.	Male.	Female.
		153	82	71

Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 12.7

#### Deaths of Infants under

One Year of Age		Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	9	4	5
Illegitimate	...	4	4	—
		<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>

#### Death Rate of Infants under

##### One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... 60.0

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate  
live births ... 46.0

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate  
live births ... 190.

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Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	2

## CAUSES OF DEATH

					Male.	Female.
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	3
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	11	11
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	6	10
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	17	10
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	...	...	2	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	2	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	2	2
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	3	1
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	...	1	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	—
Road Traffic Accident	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	3	1
All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	13	14
Totals, all Causes				...	<u>82</u>	<u>71</u>

**Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case Rates  
of certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1945.  
(Provisional Figures).**

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census.)	London Adm. County	TAMWORTH
<b>Rates per 1,000 Population.</b>					
<b>Births:—</b>					
Live ...	16.1	19.1	19.2	15.7	17.9
Still ...	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.40	0.9
<b>Deaths:—</b>					
All Causes ...	11.4	13.5	12.3	13.8	12.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Influenza ...	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.16
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
<b>Notifications:—</b>					
Typhoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	2.50
Whooping Cough ...	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	1.00
Diphtheria ...	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.16
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles ...	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	6.26
Pneumonia ...	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	0.91
<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births.</b>					
Deaths under 1 year of age	46	54	43	53	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6	9.3



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified together with the age groups. It is of interest to record that no case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

## INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1945.

Disease	Total cases at all ages	Total Cases Notified											Total Deaths	Cases admitted to Hospital
		Under 1 year	1 and 2 under 2	2 and 3 under 3	3 and 4 under 4	4 and 5 under 5	5 and 10 under 10	10 and 15 under 15	15 and 20 under 20	20 and 35 under 35	35 and 45 under 45	45 and 60 under 60	60 and over	
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	30	...	1	3	3	4	15	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Including Paratyphoid)														
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	11	1	2	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	3	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	12	2	2	2	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Measles	75	1	8	10	5	11	35	4	...	1	...	...	...	...
Totals	132	6	14	15	11	16	53	8	...	2	1	2	4	8
														31

**DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.**

Number of children under 5 years immunised during the year	...	...	...	...	...	94
Number of children between 5 and 15 years immunised during the year	...	...	...	...	...	102
Percentage of children under 5 years who have been immunised	...	...	...	...	...	30.4
Percentage of children between 5 and 15 years who have been immunised	...	...	...	...	...	84.8
Percentage of children under 5 and up to 15 years who have been immunised	...	...	...	...	...	66.0

Material used was A.P.T.

**TUBERCULOSIS.****New Cases and Mortality during 1945.**

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45-55	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	2	—	—	2	3	—	—
	10		—		5		—	

## HOSPITALS.

### General.

The Tamworth Hospital is situated in the Borough but also serves the surrounding districts.

All general medical and surgical work is carried out by local practitioners and consultants from Birmingham Hospitals.

There is no resident medical staff.

The number of beds available is seventy, and special services provided by the hospital include X-Ray and Massage.

The Public Assistance Hospital can accommodate eighty-two patients.

### Maternity.

There is no public Maternity Home provided by the authorities. Beds are available for maternity cases at the Lichfield Public Assistance Hospital.

There are two private Maternity Homes in the Borough.

### Infectious Diseases.

The Tamworth Isolation Hospital is administered by the Tamworth Joint Hospital Board, consisting of representatives of the Urban and Rural District Councils.

The majority of cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever occurring in the Borough are removed to hospital.

Accommodation is provided at Walsall Isolation Hospital for cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, and for other cases requiring isolation, arrangements are made with adjoining authorities.

The Tamworth Joint Hospital Board is a constituent authority of the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital Board and such cases would be removed to the Smallpox Hospital at Moxley.

The County Council provides hospital treatment for cases of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia if the practitioner attending the case desires it.

## CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.

Two Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons each week.

An Ante-natal Clinic is held once a fortnight and is attended by an Assistant Medical Officer on the staff of the County Council.

A School Clinic is held each week on Thursday morning—the Medical Officer and a Nurse are in attendance.

An Eye Clinic is held about once a month for treatment of errors of refraction, etc. This is in charge of the County Ophthalmic Surgeon.

The County Council also maintains a Dental Clinic where school children and children under five years receive treatment. Expectant and nursing mothers also receive dental treatment there.

An Orthopædic Clinic is held at College Lane Schoolroom. It is supported by voluntary contributions and by collection of fees for treatment. Crippling defects among elementary school children and children under five are treated free if parents cannot afford fees.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held at Lichfield once weekly, to which cases can be referred for examination by the County Tuberculosis Officer. Cases are also visited in their homes by this Officer.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

An ambulance is available for the removal of infectious diseases to the Isolation Hospital.

There is no ambulance in the Borough available for the removal of non-infectious cases, accidents, etc.

### LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological, Chemical and Pathological examinations are made at the County Council laboratory—free use is made of these facilities.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The following information has been furnished by Mr. J. C. Radford, Engineer and Manager, Tamworth Waterworks Joint Committee.

1. **Source of Supply.** Well and bore hole at Hopwas Pumping Station.
2. **Gallons pumped during 1945—**184,591,000 gallons. Also received from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company—50,477,000 gallons.
3. **Well.** Highest, 6ft. 3in.; Lowest, 1ft. 6in.
4. **Treatment before distribution.** The supply is chlorinated en route to the high level reservoir at Hopwas and the bulk supply from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company is chlorinated at source.
5. All dwelling houses in the Borough have a piped supply, either direct into the house or by means of standpipes.  
Approximate number of houses supplied :—

(a) Direct to houses.			Population.	
3,071	...	...	...	11,511
(b) By means of standpipes.				
100	...	...	...	450

6. **Rainfall.** The Rainfall for the year 1945 was 23.20in.

With the assistance of the bulk supply from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, it was possible to give a continuous supply to all consumers throughout the year, at pressures ranging from 30lbs. to 80lbs.

During the year samples of water have been obtained by the Health Department from domestic supplies in various parts of the Borough and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination.

The result in each case has been satisfactory.

The following are results of samples taken during the year :—

#### Chemical Analysis.

	Parts per 100,000		
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F.	...	...	35.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	Nil.
Albuminoid	...	...	0.0015
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	0.65
Chlorine	...	...	3.3
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	...	...	0.002
Appearance	...	...	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	...	...	None
pH Value	...	...	7.4
Hardness before boiling	...	...	15.26°
Hardness after boiling	...	...	6.10°
Temporary Hardness	...	...	9.16°

This water is chemically of satisfactory quality but must be passed bacteriologically, before being considered safe for drinking.

#### Bacteriological Examination.

COUNT On nutrient agar after 48 hours'			
incubation at 37°C.	...	...	4 colonies per ml.
On nutrient agar after 72 hours'			
incubation at 20-22°C.	...	...	8 colonies per ml.
COLI AEROGENES CONTENT (presumptive coli) after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.			
...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.

#### REMARKS.

The Ministry of Health Report No. 71 suggests that when a public water supply contains not more than two presumptive coli per 100 ml. the sample may be regarded as reasonably satisfactory.

This sample shows no bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution.

## MEAT & FOOD INSPECTION.

### Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924 and 1935.

#### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Tamworth is a killing centre for the Ministry of Food and serves the surrounding district.

The slaughterhouse of the Butchery Department, Tamworth Industrial Co-operative Society, is used by the Ministry of Food and during the year the following animals have been slaughtered and examined :—

Animals slaughtered and examined :				No.
Cattle	...	...	...	2,400
Sheep	...	...	...	5,913
Pigs ...	...	...	...	511
Calves	...	...	...	257

Whole Carcases condemned :				Weight in lbs.	
Cattle	...	...	...	89	51,144
Sheep	...	...	...	9	432
Pigs ...	...	...	...	7	1,017
Calves	...	...	...	2	117

Part Carcases and Organs :				
Cattle	...	...	...	21,566
Sheep	...	...	...	325
Pigs ...	...	...	...	449
Calves	...	...	...	16

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Other Food	...	...	...	1,377
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Total amount condemned	...			76,443
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It is with regret that I have to record the death during the year of Mr. G. W. Shelley, Sanitary Inspector, who served the Council for a period of 37 years.





